3/10/70

Dear Howard,

By the time you get this I hope you will have heard, read or seen of my filing of the first of my suits against the government, which we will do in the morning. At the moment, as recently, this occupies most of my thoughts, and I'm a bit weary. So, my responses to the enclosures in your mailing of the 8th will be brief. I read them at the P.O. this a.m., before going to Washington and setting up the press conference I'll have at 11 a.m.

CIA clipping good...You were wise in selecting the right parents, for you father has been very helpful and, I'm inclined to guess, both understanding and tolerant....By now you have more on (and from) Fisher. I have a hunch, since the preeddent will be this suit, I may file a separate on, acting as my own lawyer, on the panel report. This would enable me to question the witnesses, and you can guess several I'm looking forward to questioning! I'll have a problem paying their expenses, though.

Sometime I'll have to show you my challenge to Kaplan. I do not recall that he called me a "poor" chicken farmer and if did, quite officially, he was wrong. In some departments I won first prise for the whole country and I served as consultant to our own and foreign governments as well as to several state univ.s. in some areas....Schiller is really below contempt. He even screwer Jack Ruby, whose agent he was. Your comparison between the guns and birds is apt. Mine loved me, as I did them, and I have many pictures sowing how thoroughly I tamed wild geese. Right now we have a pair of Mallard who havem for the second year, decided to have their family with us. I get to within 20 feet of them with no trouble and, if and when I take time, we'll get to be closer friends. Terrible, isn't it? Do not misread me on Altgens as they did. What I actually said is that "if Liebeler is right", etc. I took that step by step, expressing an unwillingness to believe. Their hangup is that L fed them, as he did Epstein.

I do not now recall McCloy and his position on the SBT. It is my recollection that at the very end he had serious doubts, With Cooper and Russelll at least.

Re Hatcher, Jury and Weller, who am I to fly into the face of such authority. However, I would think a careful examination of the residues, including blood, would be essential before cleansing. I handle this differently in PM.

Back wound: Okay. ~~XXXXXX~~ Specter-Sh.: looking forward. Lifton: I recommend against it. You are bright but lacking in the experience necessary to ~~xxx~~ cope with him, and where it can yield no constructive good it can lead to harmful complications and things that might well trouble you. He is very devious, very bright, and very sick. How did he know of you? There is almost no way in which you cannot better spend time. Nothing he would give you would be of any value for he is very jealous of anything he considers valuable and is badly twisted, so you would never know what he was up to, what is genuine, what false, etc. Please take my advice and stay away from him. There are many things in life about which one may be curious. Some of them are best unindulged. He is one of these. And he is more skilled than you can imagine in both milking and twisting. Fillinger: if we have a meeting, of course you be there. ...Nichols: no response. Look not doing anything and if they change their minds, they'll check with me... If I get up there to see F., fine and~~x~~ thanks for the invitation. I'd be glad to accept unless it leads to problems with my sister, nephew and nieces....Your LHO conjectures: The only thing that can be said to have ever placed that rifle in LHO's hands is the very dubious day "lift" of a palm print. I'll go into this in the future, if you need. I suppose if you are willing to try and solidify thin air you could conjecture that he could have brought the rifle from someplace inside Dallas, but remember, he never took it from the

Paine place any other time, so how did he get it to Dallas? How did it get to N.O. to begin with? On the bus, with him, in April? In the Paine car with Rith and Marine, neighter of whom knew about it ? Did he take it from N.O. to Mexico then back to Dallas? He did not unload that car in Dallas. And many other things. This rifle is connected to Oswald only by urgent official need, not evidence, certainly not evidence that would stand up in court. Had it been in that fishbowl, Earlene would have seen it. I know of nothing persuasive that the rifle was in his possession at any time, much that persuades it wasn't. But if you decide it was in his possese sion and that somehow, undetected, he got it into the building, there remains the need to connect him with it at the moment of firing and it with that firing, neither of which is possible.

Tired. If there should be any stories in the Phila papers on the filing of the suit, I'd appreciate copies.

Best,